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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Louisiana's nonagricultural employment was estimated at 1,648,700 for December, an increase of 1,800 from the November revised level of 1,646,900 and an increase of 9,500 from the year-ago figure.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 332,200, showed a decrease of 400 from the month-ago figure, but an increase of 1,900 from the year-ago level. Mining remained unchanged over the month. Construction employment escalated in the heavy construction segment due to more business. Seasonal declines in durable and nondurable goods caused manufacturing employment to drop by 1,600 for December.

Service producing employment moved to a level of 1,316,500, up by 2,200 from November and 7,600 from December, 1992. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was down 100 for December. Trade employment rose due to seasonal hiring in the retail segment. Small gains in banking, and insurance employment expanded finance, insurance, and real estate by 200. Amusement and recreation services exhibited the largest increase in the services industry. Government employment was lower due to a reduction in state education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 135,500 production workers in manufacturing increased from $548.68 in November to $555.12 in December, an increase of $6.44, and an increase of $1.93 from December of last year. Average hourly earnings were nine cents higher than November and $0.22 higher than December, 1992. Average weekly hours for December were 43.2, an increase of 0.2 hours from the November revised level of 43.0 hours.

The December preliminary unemployment rate for Louisiana was 7.1 percent, a decrease from the November revised rate of 8.5 percent. The national unemployment rate for December remained the same as the November rate of 6.4 percent. Total unemployment for December decreased to 134,300. Claims for unemployment insurance increased, but the increase was considerably less than is normal for this time of the year. The state's civilian labor force decreased to 1,881,500, with an increase in total employment to 1,747,200.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,648.7	1,646.9	1,639.2	+ 1.8	+ 9.5
GOODS PRODUCING	332.2	332.6	330.3	- 0.4	+ 1.9
MINING	43.6	43.6	44.4	0	- 0.8
Oil and Gas Extraction	41.8	41.8	42.6	0	- 0.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	103.2	102.0	100.2	+ 1.2	+ 3.0
General Contractors	18.6	19.0	18.6	- 0.4	0
Heavy Construction, ex. Bldg.	41.7	40.5	39.6	+ 1.2	+ 2.1
Special Trade Contractors	42.9	42.5	42.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
MANUFACTURING	185.4	187.0	185.7	- 1.6	- 0.3
Durable Goods	80.5	80.8	80.4	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	12.5	12.6	12.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.5	5.7	5.5	- 0.2	0
Primary Metal Industries	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	14.7	14.6	14.7	+ 0.1	0
Machinery, Except Electrical	12.8	12.9	12.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	5.9	5.9	5.9	0	0
Transportation Equipment	21.7	21.7	21.7	0	0
Other Durable Goods (1)	4.6	4.6	4.6	0	0
Nondurable Goods	104.9	106.2	105.3	- 1.3	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	21.7	22.9	21.1	- 1.2	+ 0.6
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	10.2	10.3	10.2	- 0.1	0
Paper & Allied Products	12.1	12.1	12.4	0	- 0.3
Printing & Publishing	9.6	9.6	9.6	0	0
Chemicals & Allied Products	30.3	30.3	30.6	0	- 0.3
Inorganic Chemicals	7.1	7.1	7.1	0	0
Organic Chemicals	10.4	10.4	10.4	0	0
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.3	12.3	12.5	0	- 0.2
Petroleum Refining	11.3	11.3	11.4	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	8.7	8.7	8.9	0	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	1,316.5	1,314.3	1,308.9	+ 2.2	+ 7.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	104.1	104.2	105.5	- 0.1	- 1.4
Railroad Transportation	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Transportation, ex. Railroads	61.6	61.6	61.9	0	- 0.3
Water Transportation	23.2	23.2	23.4	0	- 0.2
Communications & Public Util.	37.7	37.8	38.4	- 0.1	- 0.7
Comm., ex. US Postal Service	15.5	15.6	15.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	22.2	22.2	22.7	0	- 0.5

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	385.4	384.1	385.7	+ 1.3	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	86.6	86.5	86.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	47.3	47.2	47.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	39.3	39.3	39.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	298.8	297.6	299.3	+ 1.2	- 0.5
Bldg. Mat'ls. & Garden Supplies	10.8	10.8	10.7	0	+ 0.1
General Merchandise	41.6	41.1	41.7	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Food Stores	59.8	59.8	59.6	0	+ 0.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.4	31.4	31.5	0	- 0.1
Apparel and Accessory	16.7	16.4	17.2	+ 0.3	- 0.5
Furniture and Equipment	10.1	10.1	10.0	0	+ 0.1
Eating and Drinking Places	96.0	95.9	96.0	+ 0.1	0
Other Retail Trade	32.4	32.1	32.6	+ 0.3	- 0.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	77.0	76.8	77.5	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Banking	27.4	27.3	27.4	+ 0.1	0
Insurance	26.0	25.9	26.6	+ 0.1	- 0.6
SERVICES	402.2	401.1	398.8	+ 1.1	+ 3.4
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.8	22.0	21.7	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Personal Services	13.8	13.8	14.0	0	- 0.2
Business Services	64.1	64.2	64.1	- 0.1	0
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	11.4	11.3	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.4	6.4	6.6	0	- 0.2
Amusement & Recreation Services	15.0	14.1	13.8	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
Health Services	134.9	134.7	135.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Hospitals	58.7	58.6	58.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Legal Services	16.2	16.2	16.3	0	- 0.1
Educational Services	28.6	28.6	26.7	0	+ 1.9
Social Services	24.6	24.6	24.4	0	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	26.4	26.4	26.3	0	+ 0.1
Eng., Acct. and Related Services	28.1	28.0	27.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Miscellaneous Services	5.6	5.6	5.7	0	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	347.8	348.1	341.4	- 0.3	+ 6.4
Federal	37.4	37.4	37.4	0	0
State and Local	310.4	310.7	304.0	- 0.3	+ 6.4
State	110.8	111.1	109.6	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Local	199.6	199.6	194.4	0	+ 5.2

*** Preliminary** ****Revised**

(1) Includes furniture and fixtures, professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries.

(2) Includes leather, rubber and textile products.

All estimates of nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$555.12	$548.68	$553.19	43.2	43.0	43.8	$12.85	$12.76	$12.63
Durable Goods	510.78	503.80	505.39	44.3	44.0	44.1	11.53	11.45	11.46
Lumber & Wood Products	439.85	409.96	399.62	46.3	45.2	44.7	9.50	9.07	8.94
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	470.02	451.50	454.30	44.3	43.0	41.3	10.61	10.50	11.00
Fabricated Metal Products	443.64	457.52	491.89	41.5	43.0	43.3	10.69	10.64	11.36
Machinery, ex. Electrical	534.52	487.01	507.93	46.0	43.6	46.9	11.62	11.17	10.83
Electric & Electronic Equip.	839.58	873.78	836.86	47.3	47.8	46.7	17.75	18.28	17.92
Transportation Equipment	542.96	550.73	538.48	44.0	44.2	42.4	12.34	12.46	12.70
Nondurable Goods	591.35	585.31	593.40	42.3	42.2	43.6	13.98	13.87	13.61
Food & Kindred Products	342.35	339.90	341.14	41.0	41.1	41.4	8.35	8.27	8.24
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	216.81	206.31	242.30	32.9	32.8	37.8	6.59	6.29	6.41
Paper & Allied Products	671.76	646.88	637.87	43.2	41.6	43.6	15.55	15.55	14.63
Printing & Publishing	462.95	454.35	450.72	39.3	38.8	40.1	11.78	11.71	11.24
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	887.17	881.72	846.40	46.4	46.9	46.1	19.12	18.80	18.36
Petroleum & Coal Products	889.35	957.23	964.80	46.2	46.9	49.3	19.25	20.41	19.57
Petroleum Refining	910.60	988.34	998.98	46.2	47.7	50.2	19.71	20.72	19.90
MINING	647.59	632.60	650.23	48.4	47.6	49.0	13.38	13.29	13.27
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	593.27	593.00	562.59	41.0	40.7	40.3	14.47	14.57	13.96
BANKING	326.63	322.65	307.38	37.5	37.3	35.7	8.71	8.65	8.61

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **135,500** full-time and part-time workers in manufacturing and **80,400** nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**	Dec. '93*	Nov. '93**	Dec. '92**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$669.60	$645.45	$644.81	45.0	43.7	44.5	$14.88	$14.77	$14.49
Petro-Chemicals	912.97	876.92	892.86	47.9	46.3	47.9	19.06	18.94	18.64

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **14,900** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$546.94	$536.36	$525.64	43.1	42.4	42.7	$12.69	$12.65	$12.31
Durable Goods	467.42	457.52	430.35	43.2	42.6	41.3	10.82	10.74	10.42
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	485.94	461.07	441.81	44.5	42.3	43.4	10.92	10.90	10.18
Fabricated Metal Products	457.03	434.48	436.36	42.2	41.3	41.4	10.83	10.52	10.54
Ship & Boatbld'g. and Repair	408.24	423.02	385.23	42.0	42.6	48.6	9.72	9.93	9.98
Nondurable Goods	620.06	607.68	619.16	43.0	42.2	44.1	14.42	14.40	14.04
Food & Kindred Products	403.20	400.56	387.32	42.0	41.9	42.1	9.60	9.56	9.20
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	203.79	172.06	189.38	34.6	30.4	35.2	5.89	5.66	5.38
Printing & Publishing	476.30	488.59	465.89	42.3	43.2	42.2	11.26	11.31	11.04
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	974.74	1,020.90	942.81	45.4	49.2	49.7	21.47	20.75	18.97

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **30,000** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$610.96	$635.04	$604.03	43.3	44.1	41.4	$14.11	$14.40	$14.59
Lumber and Wood Products	355.81	341.73	343.37	44.7	43.7	43.3	7.96	7.82	7.93
Food and Kindred Products	401.63	428.78	363.62	35.7	36.9	32.7	11.25	11.62	11.12
Printing and Publishing	391.79	377.00	383.96	38.6	37.7	39.1	10.15	10.00	9.82
Chemicals & Allied Products	694.35	744.20	614.25	45.0	46.6	41.9	15.43	15.97	14.66

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **12,400** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY Dec., 1993 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED Nov., 1993 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED Dec., 1992 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE
LOUISIANA (SEAS. ADJ.)	1,881.5	1,747.2	134.3	7.1	1,893.0	1,732.4	160.6	8.5	1,886.2	1,732.4	153.8	8.2
LOUISIANA (UNADJUSTED)	1,854.2	1,730.9	123.3	6.7	1,890.1	1,742.4	147.7	7.8	1,857.3	1,716.2	141.1	7.6
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	56.8	53.2	3.6	6.3	57.7	53.5	4.2	7.3	56.1	52.2	3.9	7.0
Baton Rouge 2/	271.7	255.0	16.7	6.1	278.0	257.5	20.5	7.4	272.4	255.0	17.4	6.4
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	68.0	63.4	4.6	6.8	68.6	63.7	4.9	7.1	67.4	61.8	5.6	8.3
Lafayette 4/	103.8	98.7	5.1	4.9	105.9	99.4	6.5	6.1	103.7	97.3	6.4	6.2
Lake Charles 5/	81.7	76.4	5.3	6.5	82.7	75.8	6.9	8.3	79.3	72.4	6.9	8.7
Monroe 6/	66.9	63.0	3.9	5.8	68.7	63.9	4.8	7.0	67.9	63.5	4.4	6.5
New Orleans 7/	550.8	517.2	33.6	6.1	561.2	519.9	41.3	7.4	555.9	518.7	37.2	6.7
Shreveport 8/	154.1	144.3	9.8	6.3	157.2	145.9	11.3	7.2	152.5	142.5	10.0	6.5

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index", is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS	INDEX	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
Dec. 1993	145.8	0	+ 2.7
Dec. 1992	141.9	- 0.1	+ 2.9

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

AREA	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 93 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE	REVISED NOVEMBER 93 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	20,650	18,975	1,675	8.1	20,925	18,950	1,975	9.5
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,825	8,975	850	8.6	9,900	8,875	1,025	10.3
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,800	5,075	725	12.4	5,825	5,100	725	12.2
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,800	14,175	1,625	10.2	16,425	14,675	1,750	10.7
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,875	12,950	925	6.7	14,075	12,900	1,175	8.4
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,725	6,350	375	5.8	6,850	6,400	450	6.5
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,200	3,875	325	7.5	4,200	3,850	350	8.4
CAMERON (CAMERON)	3,925	3,725	200	5.4	4,025	3,750	275	6.9
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	3,900	3,475	425	10.7	3,850	3,400	450	11.7
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	6,700	6,300	400	6.1	6,825	6,325	500	7.3
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	8,075	7,175	900	11.1	8,075	7,175	900	11.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	10,425	9,700	725	7.0	10,600	9,725	875	8.2
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	3,675	3,175	500	13.8	3,650	3,150	500	13.6
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	6,775	6,300	475	7.2	7,000	6,400	600	8.7
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,200	13,275	925	6.5	14,400	13,325	1,075	7.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	9,975	8,975	1,000	10.0	10,125	9,000	1,125	11.2
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,200	5,650	550	8.9	6,625	5,975	650	9.8
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	25,625	23,825	1,800	7.0	26,050	23,975	2,075	8.0
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,525	10,325	1,200	10.5	11,850	10,450	1,400	11.9
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,175	5,850	325	5.2	6,325	5,900	425	6.8
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	10,475	9,575	900	8.6	10,600	9,550	1,050	9.9
JENA (LASALLE)	5,775	5,325	450	7.9	5,975	5,425	550	9.1
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	19,575	18,975	600	3.0	20,000	19,250	750	3.8
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,575	5,050	525	9.7	5,575	5,025	550	9.7
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	13,150	11,875	1,275	9.7	13,475	12,025	1,450	10.7
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,475	15,350	1,125	6.8	16,700	15,450	1,250	7.4
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	7,675	7,125	550	7.3	7,875	7,175	700	8.8
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	6,650	5,875	775	11.8	6,725	5,850	875	13.0
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	3,975	3,625	350	8.8	4,000	3,625	375	9.6
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,025	7,275	750	9.4	8,150	7,250	900	11.0
MANY (SABINE)	10,250	9,675	575	5.7	10,400	9,725	675	6.4
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,600	2,375	225	9.0	2,675	2,400	275	10.7
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	7,675	6,800	875	11.5	7,850	6,825	1,025	13.0
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	31,050	28,350	2,700	8.7	31,525	28,400	3,125	9.9
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	21,150	19,375	1,775	8.4	21,325	19,300	2,025	9.5
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	41,025	37,550	3,475	8.5	41,725	37,600	4,125	9.9
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	2,475	2,225	250	10.1	2,500	2,200	300	12.3
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	10,400	9,825	575	5.5	10,675	9,925	750	7.1
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	17,625	16,325	1,300	7.4	17,900	16,375	1,525	8.6
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	17,950	16,400	1,550	8.6	18,625	16,750	1,875	10.1
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	16,975	15,850	1,125	6.6	17,450	15,950	1,500	8.6
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	16,200	14,500	1,700	10.5	16,475	14,525	1,950	11.8
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	3,925	3,200	725	18.7	4,400	3,725	675	15.4
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,225	3,925	300	7.1	4,275	3,975	300	6.9
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,475	5,150	325	5.8	5,625	5,200	425	7.4

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES ARE COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	49.1	48.9	48.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
GOODS PRODUCING	6.6	6.7	6.2	- 0.1	+ 0.4
MINING	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.2	3.2	2.8	0	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	3.3	3.4	3.3	- 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.0	2.1	2.0	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	42.5	42.2	41.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.9	10.8	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	8.9	8.8	9.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
SERVICES	13.7	13.6	13.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Health Services	6.5	6.5	6.5	0	0
GOVERNMENT	13.3	13.2	13.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Federal	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
State and Local	10.9	10.8	10.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
State	5.0	4.9	5.0	+ 0.1	0
Local	5.9	5.9	5.6	0	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA, at 49,100 during December, was up 200 from the November revised estimate, and 1,100 higher than the year-ago level. Positive movement was noted in most segments, with the exception of manufacturing.

Goods producing employment, at 6,600, decreased by 100 from November. Manufacturing reported the only loss. It was due to a reduction of force in the fabricated metals industry. Both mining and construction remained unchanged from November.

Service producing employment was estimated at 42,500, an increase of 300 from November. Seasonal or temporary gains were reported in both the trade and services industries. Government moved upward to 13,300, as a result of staff increases in state government.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	251.7	251.9	251.2	- 0.2	+ 0.5
GOODS PRODUCING	54.5	53.7	55.0	+ 0.8	- 0.5
MINING	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	30.6	29.8	30.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	23.0	23.0	23.6	0	- 0.6
Durable Goods	5.4	5.5	5.9	- 0.1	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	17.6	17.5	17.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.5	12.4	12.5	+ 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	197.2	198.2	196.2	- 1.0	+ 1.0
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	11.7	11.6	11.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	55.4	55.2	54.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	13.4	13.4	13.6	0	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	8.9	8.9	9.2	0	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	42.0	41.8	41.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
General Merchandise	6.2	6.2	6.0	0	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.4	14.4	14.2	0	+ 0.2
Banking	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	59.3	59.2	58.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	56.4	57.8	56.8	- 1.4	- 0.4
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	53.6	55.0	54.1	- 1.4	- 0.5
State	29.7	31.0	30.3	- 1.3	- 0.6
Local	23.9	24.0	23.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge MSA, at 251,700 during December, was down 200 from the November revised estimate, but was up by 500 from the year-ago level. This employment change was primarily due to seasonal factors.

Goods producing employment, at 54,500, increased by 800 from November, but was 500 less than the year-ago estimate. Construction employment moved upward to a level of 30,600, in preparation of future casino operations. General contractors nonresidential and heavy construction both reported significant gains in December. Manufacturing employment remained stable for December due to losses in other durable goods being offset by gains in the chemicals and petroleum industry. Mining employment remained unchanged at 900.

Service producing employment, at 197,200, decreased by 1,000 from November, but was 1,000 higher than the year-ago level. The entire decrease was centered in government due to seasonal, nonfaculty reductions at state and local educational institutions. Increases in transportation, communications, and public utilities were also seasonal in nature, as most segments reported more business activity. Trade continued to move upward, affected by Christmas hiring, and expanding business in retail grocery, and eating and drinking places. The services sector was also on the upturn, aided by minimal growth scattered throughout the sector.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 14,900 production workers in all manufacturing was $669.60 for December, an increase of $24.15 from the November average. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings were up $24.79. Average weekly hours, at 45.0, increased by 1.3 hours in December, while average hourly earnings increased by $0.11 an hour. A longer work week contributed to these changes.

The total civilian labor force for the Baton Rouge MSA registered at 271,700. This figure was comprised of 255,000 employed and 16,700 unemployed. The unemployment rate stood at 6.1 percent in December.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,645 individuals with new or renewal applications. A total of 1,269 referrals to current openings resulted in 100 placements during the month of December.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	60.0	59.7	57.9	+ 0.3	+ 2.1
GOODS PRODUCING	12.8	13.0	11.9	- 0.2	+ 0.9
MINING	4.6	4.7	4.1	- 0.1	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	3.3	3.3	3.0	0	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	4.9	5.0	4.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	3.2	3.3	3.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	47.2	46.7	46.0	+ 0.5	+ 1.2
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	5.8	5.7	5.8	+ 0.1	0
Water Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.2	15.1	15.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
Retail Trade	12.2	12.1	12.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.4	2.4	2.5	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.2	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICES	11.6	11.5	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	12.3	12.2	11.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	11.8	11.7	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	3.5	3.4	3.5	+ 0.1	0
Local	8.3	8.3	7.9	0	+ 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux MSA experienced a gain of 300 from November's revised level of 59,700. The goods producing industry dropped by 200, while service producing gained 500. Total nonagricultural employment increased by 2,100 from December, 1992.

Goods producing pared back from a level of 13,000 in November, to 12,800 in December. Mining and manufacturing each had a loss of 100, while construction remained stable.

Service producing employment grew by 500 from November's estimate of 46,700. The growth was scattered throughout the industry, and was not concentrated in any particular sector.

December's estimated unemployment was 4,600. Unemployment presently comprises 6.8 percent of the civilian labor force for the Houma-Thibodaux MSA. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 722.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	103.1	102.8	101.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
GOODS PRODUCING	26.6	26.3	25.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
MINING	10.7	10.8	10.7	- 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	5.8	5.5	5.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	10.1	10.0	9.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	3.6	3.5	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Nondurable Goods	6.5	6.5	6.6	0	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	76.5	76.5	75.5	0	+ 1.0
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	6.0	5.9	6.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	27.0	26.9	26.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	6.5	6.5	6.4	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	20.5	20.4	20.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
General Merchandise	2.5	2.5	2.6	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	4.0	0	0
Banking	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
SERVICES	25.5	25.7	24.9	- 0.2	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	14.0	14.0	13.8	0	+ 0.2
Federal	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
State and Local	13.0	13.0	12.8	0	+ 0.2
State	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0
Local	8.0	8.0	7.8	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette MSA was estimated at 103,100 for December. This estimate was 300 more than last month and 1,900 more than December, 1992.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 26,600 for the current month. This was an increase of 300 over the November level of 26,300. Construction increased by 300 due to more employment activity in the building construction-general contractors sector, and special trade contractors sector. Manufacturing rose 100 with the increase centered in the durable goods sector. Mining had a minor decline of 100.

Service producing employment was estimated at 76,500 for December. This estimate was unchanged from last month. Transportation, communications, and public utilities rose 100, primarily due to the trucking industry. Trade was up by 100, with the gain centered in the clothing stores sector, and garden supply and mobile home dealers sector. Services was down 200, mostly due to a decrease in the social, and agricultural services sectors.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	75.2	73.8	70.7	+ 1.4	+ 4.5
GOODS PRODUCING	21.8	21.5	20.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
MINING	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	9.6	9.4	8.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
MANUFACTURING	11.2	11.1	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Durable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Nondurable Goods	9.4	9.4	9.5	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Petro Products	8.5	8.6	8.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	53.4	52.3	50.5	+ 1.1	+ 2.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	4.5	4.6	4.1	- 0.1	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.8	16.8	16.3	0	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	13.4	13.4	12.7	0	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	17.1	15.9	15.5	+ 1.2	+ 1.6
GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.4	12.0	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	11.8	11.8	11.5	0	+ 0.3
State	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+ 0.2
Local	7.8	7.8	7.7	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA in December was estimated at 75,200. This was 1,400 above November's revised level of 73,800, and 4,500 more than December, one year ago.

Goods producing employment was up by 300 from the November level. The increase was in construction and manufacturing.

Service producing employment rose in December by 1,100 to a level of 53,400. The gain occurred mainly in the amusement and recreation services sector of the services industry.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	61.6	61.7	61.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
GOODS PRODUCING	11.8	11.8	12.0	0	- 0.2
MINING	0.5	0.4	0.5	+ 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.3	3.5	3.3	- 0.2	0
MANUFACTURING	8.0	7.9	8.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.6	6.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.1	5.5	+ 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	49.8	49.9	49.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.6	15.7	15.5	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.3	3.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	12.4	12.4	12.4	0	0
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	4.1	3.8	- 0.2	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
Banking	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
SERVICES	15.0	15.0	14.7	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.0	12.0	12.6	0	- 0.6
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	11.5	11.5	12.1	0	- 0.6
State	4.6	4.6	5.0	0	- 0.4
Local	6.9	6.9	7.1	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe MSA was estimated at 61,600 for December. This was 100 below last month's figure of 61,700 and 300 below December of last year.

Goods producing remained the same over the month; however, employment was down 200 from the same period one year ago. Construction was lower by 200 from last month, but remained unchanged from last year's figure of 3,300.

Service producing employment, estimated at 49,800, was 100 below last month's and last year's estimates of 49,900. The only major industry to show an over-the-month change was trade, decreasing by 100 in the wholesale sector. The largest over-the-year changes occurred in services, with an increase of 300, and government, with a decrease of 600.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	543.5	541.1	542.2	+ 2.4	+ 1.3
GOODS PRODUCING	79.5	79.5	80.9	0	- 1.4
MINING	12.4	12.3	13.8	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	12.0	11.9	13.4	+ 0.1	- 1.4
CONSTRUCTION	24.1	24.0	22.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
MANUFACTURING	43.0	43.2	44.3	- 0.2	- 1.3
Durable Goods	21.2	21.3	22.6	- 0.1	- 1.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
Machinery Inc. Electrical	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
Transportation Equipment	11.9	12.0	13.0	- 0.1	- 1.1
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	9.4	9.5	10.0	- 0.1	- 0.6
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	21.8	21.9	21.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	5.4	5.7	5.4	- 0.3	0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.1	2.1	1.9	0	+ 0.2
Printing & Publishing	3.5	3.4	3.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.9	4.9	4.9	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.4	4.3	4.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	464.0	461.6	461.3	+ 2.4	+ 2.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	40.1	39.6	40.2	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Railroad Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Trucking and Warehousing	7.6	7.6	7.4	0	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	10.9	10.5	10.9	+ 0.4	0
Comm. & Public Util.	12.1	12.1	12.4	0	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	138.5	137.0	140.2	+ 1.5	- 1.7
Wholesale Trade	32.2	32.2	31.6	0	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	17.1	17.1	17.0	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	15.1	15.1	14.6	0	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	106.3	104.8	108.6	+ 1.5	- 2.3
General Merchandise	12.7	12.2	13.7	+ 0.5	- 1.0
Food Stores	20.6	20.2	21.0	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Eating & Drinking Places	37.6	37.7	37.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	29.3	29.1	28.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Banking	9.0	9.0	8.8	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	161.7	162.5	158.0	- 0.8	+ 3.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	14.0	14.2	13.9	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Health Services	46.3	46.1	45.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Educational Services	18.4	18.6	17.4	- 0.2	+ 1.0
GOVERNMENT	94.4	93.4	94.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.4
Federal	16.9	16.6	16.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
State and Local	77.5	76.8	77.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
State	20.9	20.7	21.3	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Local	56.6	56.1	56.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.5

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the New Orleans MSA in December was estimated at 543,500, an increase of 2,400 from the November revised level.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 79,500 in December. This was the same as November's estimate, but was 1,400 less than December, 1992. Within the industry, mining and construction exhibited increases of 100 each, while manufacturing employment decreased, mostly due to a seasonal decline in several segments of the food and kindred products sector.

Service producing employment was 2,400 higher than the November figure of 461,600 and 2,700 above December, 1992. More business at the local port was mainly responsible for the employment growth in transportation, communications, and public utilities. Trade was up in the retail segment due to seasonal hiring for the holidays. Finance, insurance, and real estate payrolls were higher due to increases in the insurance, and real estate segments. Services employment decreased mainly due to less business for hotels and other lodging places, and a seasonal decrease in educational services. Government employment was up in each segment of the industry.

An estimated 30,000 production workers in the New Orleans MSA earned $546.94 per week, up $10.58 from last month's revised average. Average weekly hours were 43.1, up from 42.4 the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $12.69, up from $12.65 in November and $12.31 in December of last year.

Estimated unemployment was 33,600 for December. The unemployment rate registered 6.1 prcent. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 7,124.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1993*	Nov. 1993**	Dec. 1992**	Net Change From Nov. 1993	Net Change From Dec. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	142.1	142.3	140.4	- 0.2	+ 1.7
GOODS PRODUCING	27.1	27.3	26.4	- 0.2	+ 0.7
MINING	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	7.7	7.7	6.5	0	+ 1.2
MANUFACTURING	16.8	17.0	17.2	- 0.2	- 0.4
Durable Goods	11.0	11.2	11.4	- 0.2	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	4.3	4.4	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	4.4	4.5	4.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.8	5.8	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Chemicals & Petroleum Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	115.0	115.0	114.0	0	+ 1.0
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	7.5	7.6	7.9	- 0.1	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	35.0	34.4	34.8	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	8.4	8.4	8.5	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	26.6	26.0	26.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.7	6.7	6.5	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	36.9	37.5	36.1	- 0.6	+ 0.8
GOVERNMENT	28.9	28.8	28.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Federal	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0
State and Local	23.8	23.7	23.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State	7.8	7.8	7.8	0	0
Local	16.0	15.9	15.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport MSA was estimated at 142,100 for December. This estimate was 200 lower than the November revised figure of 142,300, but 1,700 higher than the December, 1992 figure of 140,400.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 27,100, was down 200 over the month. Manufacturing dropped by 200 due to a decrease in the durable goods sector.

Service producing employment was unchanged from the November level of 115,000, and compared to a year ago, this sector was up by 1,000 jobs overall. Trade was up by 600, with the increase centered in the building materials, department stores, food stores, eating and drinking places, and miscellaneous retail segments. Services fell by 600 mostly due to a drop in the amusement and recreation sector.

An estimated 12,400 production workers in manufacturing in the Shreveport MSA had average weekly earnings of $610.96 in December, compared to $635.04 in November and $604.03 a year ago. Average weekly hours dropped to 43.3 in December, compared to 44.1 in November. Average hourly earnings declined to $14.11 for the current month, compared to $14.40 in November, and $14.59 a year ago.

The Shreveport MSA had a civilian labor force in December of 154,100, including 144,300 employed and 9,800 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

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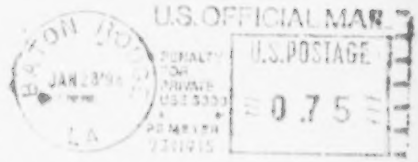

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